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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/617,057	07/10/2003	Cha Deok Dong	29936/39472	3728
4743	7590	01/26/2004	EXAMINER	
MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP 6300 SEARS TOWER 233 S. WACKER DRIVE CHICAGO, IL 60606			LE, THAO P	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2818	

DATE MAILED: 01/26/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 10/617,057	Applicant(s) DONG ET AL.	
	Examiner Thao P Le	Art Unit 2818	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3-5 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                      4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                      5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_                      6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### Priority

1. It is noted that Applicants have filled a certified copy of said application as required by U.S.C 119, which papers have been placed of record in the file.
2. Claims 1-5 are pending in this application for prosecution.

### **Claim Rejections**

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

3. Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, line 9, "a gate electrode" is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim 1. It is not clear whether "a gate electrode" mentioned in line 9 is the same as "a gate electrode" mentioned in line 5. If so, the "a gate electrode" in line 9 should be referred as "the gate electrode".

In claim 2, line 19, "a sidewall oxide film" is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim 2. It is not clear whether "a sidewall oxide film" mentioned in line 19 of claim 2 is the same as "sidewall oxide films" mentioned in line 9 of claim 1. If so, the "a sidewall oxide film" in line 19 of claim 2 should be referred as "the sidewall oxide film".

4. Claims 3-5 are objected to due to depending on rejected claims.

***Reasons for Indication of Allowable Subject Matter***

**5. Claims 1-5 would be allowed.**

Claims 1-5 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

The following is a statement of reason for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Claims 1-5 are considered allowable since the prior made of record and considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure does not teach or suggest the claimed limitations having a method of forming a flash memory device comprising the step of implementing a dry oxidization process using a mixed gas of oxygen and C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>3</sub> (TCA) to form sidewall oxide films at the sidewalls of a gate electrode in order to compensate for damage due to an etch process for forming the gate electrode and reinforce isolation of a floating gate.

6. If Applicants are aware of better art than that which has been cited, they are required to call such to attention of the examiner.

***Conclusion***

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thao P Le whose telephone number is 571-272-1785. The examiner can normally be reached on M-T (8:00-6:30).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Nelms can be reached on 571-272-1787. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1956.



Thao P. Le  
January 20, 2004.



David Nelms  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Technology Center 2800